



ITS NEWS

Infant-Toddler Services

Kansas Department of Health
and Environment

March, 2001

Spring Issue

Early Intervention Networks Recognized for Exemplary Practice	1
KS Infant-Toddler Services Spring Conference	1
Johnson County Parent Receives KDEC Award	2
Community Early Intervention Network Changes	2
Occupation Therapy Technical Assistance Project	2
Continuous Improvement Process	3
Funding Opportunity: Reaching Children: Building Systems of Care	3
Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative	3
Early Identification of Mental Health Needs	4
Who You Gonna Call for Your Training and Technical Assistance Needs?	4
Grant Tips	4
Mediation Training Dates Set	5
Workshop to Focus on Legal Requirements and Strategies for Serving Limited English Proficient Persons	5
Trainings/Conferences	5

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Alexander, and Cheryl Higgins

ITS NEWS is offered to persons interested in early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. To submit articles or for information, write or call KDHE, Infant-Toddler Services, Landon State Office Building, 10th Floor, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612-1220; (785) 296-6135.

Reprinting of any articles should credit KDHE.

Early Intervention Networks Recognized for Exemplary Practice

For the second year, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has recognized early intervention networks in Kansas for the incorporation of progressive practices that go beyond the requirements of IDEA. This year, networks had the opportunity to submit an application in the area of child find. The applications were reviewed by a panel of professionals and two were selected for recognition. These exemplary practice award recipients were announced at the Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference in Overland Park, Kansas, on March 2, 2001.

The Early Education Center of Hutchinson, Kansas was recognized for their project entitled *Special Beginnings*. It is a collaborative venture with several different community agencies which includes the local hospital and the county health department. The intent of this program is to identify high-risk infants and those infants with developmental delays at birth. If an infant does not qualify for Part C services while in the hospital, ongoing monitoring, family support and developmental expertise is provided by a multidisciplinary team following the infant's release. This team includes a social worker, nurse, developmental specialist, and the child's physician. For further information, contact KaAnn Graham, Early Education Center, 303 East Bigger, Hutchinson, Kansas, 67501, (620) 663-2671.

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council of Jefferson and Atchison Counties was also recognized for its efforts in the area of child find. Multiple agencies are collaboratively involved in the child find process which includes welcome bags for each new baby in the counties, a toll-free number for families, and wide-spread screening clinics, as well as screening on request. Other unique features of their child find include joint visits with early intervention, Early Head Start, and Parents As Teachers providers, attendance at discharge planning meetings for children who are high-risk, and ongoing monitoring of any high-risk children through the use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (Bricker, Squires & Mount, 1995). For further information, contact Ellen Mellard, Early Childhood Coordinating Council of Jefferson and Atchison Counties, PO Box 320, 601 Woodson, Lecompton, Kansas, 66050, (785) 887-6711.

Kansas Infant-Toddler Services Spring Conference

On April 10th, Kansas Infant-Toddler Services, with support from the Kansas Inservice and Training System, will be hosting a conference called "The IFSP Process". The keynote speaker for this conference is Eva Horn, Associate Professor at the University of Kansas. After the keynote address, there will be breakout sessions which include: "Top Ten Things We Need to Share with Parents During the IFSP Process," "Linking Assessment Information to Outcome Development," "Family Outcomes in the IFSP Process," "The Who? What? Where? and How? of Outcomes in Daily Routines," "Including the Community in the IFSP," and "Evaluation of Outcomes: Did We Get Where We Thought We Were Going."

This conference is designed for parents, service providers and administrators in Part C early intervention networks. It will be held at the Salina Holiday Inn. There is no charge but you must register to attend. To register, call Joe Johnson at (800) 332-6262 or Diane Alexander at (785) 296-6135.

John son County Parent Receives KDEC Award

The Kansas Division for Early Childhood's (KDEC) Outstanding Contributor Award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to early childhood special education in Kansas. On March 2, 2001, Erin Crasper, chair of the Johnson County Interagency Coordinating Council, parent, and volunteer, received this award at the KDEC conference which was held in Overland Park, Kansas.

In addition to chairing the Johnson County Interagency Coordinating Council, Erin

- is a site visitor, team leader, and trainer for the Kansas Infant-Toddler Services monitoring system;
- has presented nationally on the monitoring process, emphasizing the importance of parent participation in program evaluation;
- serves on the Board of the Foster Parent Association, and will serve as their President next year;
- with her husband, has been a foster parent for a number of years;
- has served as a parent educator;
- has provided a home for children relocated temporarily for extensive medical treatment which includes participating in medical care, providing monitoring and follow-up at home, and providing therapeutic activities;
- serves on state committees for Special Education;
- serves on the Kansas Infant-Toddler Services (Part C) Office of Special Education Programs Self-Assessment Task Force in preparation for a federal compliance visit; and
- is a parent of three children, one of whom has disabilities.

In the many letters received to support Erin's nomination for this award, it was noted that she is always willing to promote, educate, learn and further the cause of children. Erin has made a lasting contribution to improving services for other Kansas children with disabilities and their families.

!! Congratulations to Erin on her award !!

Community Early Intervention Network Changes

This section of ITS NEWS is intended to help keep readers abreast of Network changes that come to the attention of our office. Please contact Diane Alexander, (785) 296-6135, to report changes as they occur.

Dena Bracciano, Douglas County, has a new e-mail address: dgcoiccdenab@grapevine.net

Prairie Band Potawatomi Indians Part C Contacts:
Robyn Wright or Cecily Wabaunsee. E-mail for Robyn is: robynpbp@aol.com .

Occupational Therapy Technical Assistance Project

Are you an Occupational Therapist working in an infant Toddler network? Would you like to be part of a technical assistance network? Do you have expertise to share with other OT's across the state? Are you a new therapist who would like a mentor? Are you a veteran therapist who would be willing to mentor a new therapist? Would you like more information regarding Infant Toddler Sensory Processing? Would you like technical assistance on a particular child? Are you interested in hosting fieldwork students with the assistance of KUMC OT Department? Do you need relevant continuing education opportunities in Kansas (with CEU's) in order to work more effectively with infants and toddlers?

The University of Kansas Medical Center Occupational Therapy Education Department and KDHE have joined in providing technical assistance to OT's working in Infant Toddler Programs across the state. This is currently a six month project which we are hoping to extend through the next fiscal year. Activities will include: surveying OT's regarding the continuing education needs, providing two best practice trainings/in-services for practicing OT's in Infant Toddler Networks, facilitating CEU's for these activities and, at the request of OT's or teams, providing technical assistance/consultation on planning and program implementation.

An e-mail went out to Program Coordinators at the end of January requesting the names of the OT's working in their networks. We currently have a list of forty-five therapists. If you are an OT, would like to be part of this project, and we don't have your name yet, please forward your name, address, e-mail, etc., to me at the e-mail address below. OT's and Program Coordinators will be receiving a needs assessment by the second week of March to help us design appropriate inservice opportunities.

On June 2, 2001, an afternoon workshop is planned in Kansas City on the Infant Toddler Sensory Profile: How to Use the Infant Toddler Sensory Profile in Early Intervention Programming. We will be mailing out additional information.

We currently have an e-mail site: OT-Infant-Toddler@kumc.edu if you have any questions or would like to request information or technical assistance. You may also call Ellen Mellard at KU Medical Center OT Education Department at: (913)-588-7195.

Continuous Improvement Process

Kansas early intervention and special education programs are currently participating in a "Continuous Improvement Process" as required by The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). This self assessment and program review will assist in demonstrating improved results for children and youth with disabilities and aid in the identification of areas in need of improvement for the service delivery system.

A state-wide task force has been convened which includes representatives from both Part B and C, the Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Development, parents/family members, providers, and higher education personnel. The task force has been meeting for about a year and is currently working on data collection and analysis to support the indicators that OSEP has set forth as measures of quality services. For the Part C program, these include:

- ' Ensuring effective child find and public awareness activities;
- ' Providing service coordination to facilitate the provision of services across agency lines to meet the needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families;
- ' Supporting family-centered services;
- ' Providing early intervention services in children's natural environments;
- ' Planning transition activities to ensure that toddlers with disabilities transition to preschool or other appropriate services, and have individualized education programs or individualized family service plans on their third birthdays, if appropriate.

A sub-committee that focuses on the Part C indicators has been established and is meeting regularly to work on the self-assessment. Members include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| CCECDS - | Deb Voth |
| | Doug Bowman |
| Parent - | Erin Crapser |
| Universities - | Linda Mitchell, Ph.D., WSU |
| | Wayne Sailor, Ph.D., KU-UAP |
| | Vicki Turbiville, Ph.D., KU-UAP |
| | Gwen Bailey, Ph.D., K-State/KCCTO |
| SRS - | Karl Hockenbarger |
| | Brenda Kuder |
| KSDE - | Carol Dermeyer |
| KITS - | Vera Stroup-Rentier |
| KACCRRRA - | Lana Messner |
| Infant-Toddler Networks - | |
| | Mary Beasley - Johnson County |
| | Ginger Gearheart - Wyandotte County |
| | Zena Kennedy - Northeast Kansas ICC |
| | Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer - NW |
| | Kansas Education Service Center |
| | Lona Foust - Riley County |
| | Sharon Hixson - Children and Families |
| | Network in Garden City & SW KS |
| KDHE - | Jamey Kendall -Children with Special |
| | Health Care Needs |
| | Infant-Toddler Services Staff |

assisting state and local staff to analyze current policies and practices and promote continuous self evaluation that will assist in improving the service delivery system in Kansas. Further updates about this work will be provided in this newsletter. Contact Carolyn Nelson, Part C Coordinator, (785)-296-6135 or cnelson@kdhe.state.ks.us for further information.

Funding Opportunity

Announcement: The American Academy of Pediatrics announces the availability of funding through its program "Reaching Children: Building Systems of Care" for innovative proposals for partnership initiatives that improve outreach and enrollment of State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) within their local communities. Guided by local pediatricians, the initiatives will identify SCHIP needs from a local perspective and build partnerships to provide innovative approaches to improve access to quality health care for low-income children. Each selected partnership initiative will be awarded \$10,000 over a one year period. Request for proposals (RFP) will be available March 12, 2001. Look for the application and RFP after the above date on the AAP WEB Site at www.aap.org/advocacy/reachchild.htm . For consultation regarding development of a proposal, contact Stephanie Graves at 1-800-433-9016, ext. 4014, or e-mail at sgraves@aap.org . (Made available via NECTAS listserv).

New Publication

Ear Infections and Language Development describes ear infections and middle ear fluid, the effects on hearing and language learning, and how parents can enhance their child's language learning. Contact the Consumer Information Center at 1-888-878-3256 to obtain a copy for 50 cents. Available soon on line at; <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OERI/ECI/publications.html>.

Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative

The Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative, or KATCO, is a consumer run financial loan guarantee program established to allow people with disabilities, or members of their families, to borrow money to purchase assistive technology and home modifications. KATCO guarantees loans through the MidAmerican Credit Union, which is statewide, and the Parsons Credit Union, which is regional.

The KATCO loan guarantee program is highly individualized, and people of all income levels or credit histories are considered. KATCO also works with applicants to determine whether there are other funding sources available for their assistive technology or home modification.

Those interested in obtaining a loan should contact their Assistive Technology Regional Access Site by calling: 1-800-KAN-DO-IT, or by contacting: Mary Ellen O'Brien KATCO, 214 S.W. 6th, Liberty Building-Suite 205, Topeka, Kansas 66603, (785)354-8620, or mewright@birch.net

The on-going work of the Part C sub-committee is

Early Identification of Mental Health Needs

The Guidance Center, a community mental health center serving the Kansas counties of Jefferson, Atchison and Leavenworth, launched a new and innovative program, targeted at the early identification and intervention of emotional and behavioral problems in pre-school age children. Each month the early identification coordinator goes out into the community and conducts a brief mental health assessment with each child that participates in the Count-Your-Kid-In screening. Currently, the screening tool being utilized is the Child Behavioral Checklist (CDCL), a brief questionnaire which is completed by the parent. Once the form is completed, it is scored on site and immediate feedback is made available to the parent. The results provide an emotional and behavioral sketch of the child and also identifies any potential areas of concern. The child's parent is provided with an opportunity to discuss the results, ask questions and schedule a follow-up appointment with the mental health center, if necessary. Early identification is truly a key to the successful treatment of children with mental health needs.

Who You Gonna Call for Your Training and Technical Assistance Needs?

Vera Lynne Stroup—Rentier has replaced Sarah Walters as the infant-toddler specialist on the Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) staff. Vera has worked for the KITS project for a total of six years and is excited to focus her attention on the birth to three population. Vera is a graduate of Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, PA, and the University of Oregon. She has worked in the fields of early childhood and early childhood special education for thirteen years as a preschool teacher and center director, an early childhood special education teacher and inservice trainer. She has particular interests in linking assessment and intervention, IFSP development, services in natural environments and working effectively with families. Vera's office is at the Kansas University Affiliated Program in Parsons. You may phone her at (620) 421-6550 ext. 1768 or e-mail her at vstroup@parsons.lsi.ukans.edu.

Chelie Nelson has just been hired by KITS to provide technical assistance to the preschool programs across Kansas. Chelie is a graduate of Wichita State University and received her certificate in Early Childhood Special Education from Emporia State University. For the past fifteen years, Chelie has worked in the field of early childhood special education. Chelie's experience includes her work as a speech-language pathologist and an early childhood special educator. She has worked in a number of different service delivery models including inclusive, self contained, reverse mainstream, and itinerant. She has additional experience in inservice training including the topical areas of assessment, goal development and collaborative service delivery. Her interests include early language and literacy, inclusive programs, adapting curriculum, and collaboration. Chelie will work in the Lawrence office at The University of Kansas. You can reach her at (785) 864-5550, or by e-mail at cnels@ukans.edu.

Grant Tips —

Foundation Official Offers Advice For Better Relations With Private Funders

(CDP) In a speech to nonprofit officials in Washington, Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation program officer Merry Richter offers advice for maintaining good relations with private funders.

- Do not take the money and run. Stay in contact. Send copies of program materials, even after the grant period is over.
- Do not use the back door. Foundations have established procedures for grant review and do not appreciate groups soliciting endorsements directly from board members.
- Provide a clear budget and narrative. Specify objectives and indicate performance measures. Include a justification for each line item in the budget.
- Avoid slick or sloppy pitches. In addition to spell-checking, be sure to manually proofread your grant proposal.
- Do not stretch your proposal to fit funders' missions. Use your own words to describe the project and prove it falls within a funder's interest. Don't tell funders what you think they want to hear.
- Do not use mass-mailings or boilerplate. Foundations usually do not read—or fund—inquiries addressed “to whom it may concern.” If you do use mass mailings, individualize each proposal in some way.
- Do not resubmit rejected or already approved proposals to the same funder. Unless a funder's guidelines have changed, do not resubmit a proposal without first altering it.
- “No” means “no.” If you don't know why a proposal was rejected, ask the funder for feedback.
- Don't pester foundation staff for advice and/or personal meetings. Most foundations have small staffs and limited free time.
- Read the guidelines carefully before submitting a proposal. Not doing so is a waste of your time and the foundation's.

Info: Richter, (703) 276-8240

— *Andrew Bradshaw*

Reprinted with permission, CD Publications, Children & Youth Funding Report, December 20, 2000. For a free sample issue, call (301) 588-6380.

Mediation Training Dates Set

Training for persons interested in becoming certified as a

Part C mediator has been scheduled for June 13-14, 2001. It will be held in Salina.

The purpose of the training is to prepare individuals as mediators in the event that mediation is requested as a service for families and agencies as part of the development of the IFSP. The training is limited to those individuals familiar with Part C regulations.

There will be a refresher session scheduled for those persons who received mediation training last year and who want to keep their certification current.

Additional information will be provided to the Part C local early intervention network contacts at a later date.

Workshop to Focus on Legal Requirements and Strategies for Serving Limited English Proficient Persons

Does your agency receive federal funds? Do you work with persons who have limited English language skills? Did you know you can lose those funds by failing to comply with federal requirements to meet certain needs of limited English proficiency persons? If you answered 'yes' to the above questions, you will be interested in an upcoming opportunity aimed at helping public health professionals understand the legal and programmatic requirements of addressing language barriers.

The workshop, *Many Peoples, Many Challenges: Overcoming Language Barriers in Delivering Health Services*, will be held in Wichita on April 26. Participants will learn about the new regulations (Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act), strategies to comply with the law, how to assess readability of printed materials, and available resources.

This workshop is sponsored by the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) and Head Start. It applies to staff of agencies, local health departments, schools, etc., receiving federal funds. Registration materials are available. To receive a packet, contact the KPHA office at kpha@networksplus.net or by calling (785) 233-3103.

Families Together, Inc., Family Enrichment Weekend

April 20-21, 2001 Wichita

For additional information call (316) 945-7747, or toll free for Kansas Parents 1-888-815-6364, or the statewide Spanish Parent Line 1-800-499-9443.

Trainings/Conferences

Strategies for Facilitating the Development of Young Children with Visual Impairments in Natural Environments
Karen S. Carlile, M.ED. April 24, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Miller

Library, McPherson College, McPherson, KS. For more information please contact Gretchen Conway, ACCK (316) 241-5150 ext. 115, or Glenda Robertson (316) 241-5150 ext. 117.

2001 National Autism Symposium. April 26, 27 & 28, St. Louis Regal Riverfront Hotel, St Louis, MO. For additional information about the 2001 National Autism Symposium, call Donna Elliott at (573) 751-4054.

Infant and Early Childhood Observation, Touch, and Long-Term Follow-Up. Tiffany Field, PhD, Miami, FL; Lynn Barnett, NHS, Devon, UK; Graziella Fava-Vizziello, MD, Univ. of Padua, Italy; May 4-5, The Menninger Clinic Seeley Conference Center, 5800 S.W. Sixth, Topeka. Enrollment is limited. Advance registration is required. For Information call 1-800-288-7377 or (785) 350-5000.

In Touch Again: A Multisensory Therapeutic Approach for Children and Adults with Attachment and Bonding Issues presented by the Minnesota Adoption Support and Preservation Project. Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS. June 4,5,&6. For more Information contact Gretchen Conway, ACCK, (316) 241-5150 ext. 115, or Glenda Robertson (316) 241-5150 ext. 117.

2001 NAD Region II Conference. September 14-16, Kansas City, MO; For further information contact Kim Carwile, Correspondence Secretary, PO Box 78207, Wichita, KS, 67278-0207; TTY/fax (316) 687-0482, Email billmime@aol.com .

A resource from New York State regarding services for children with Autism.

The resource entitled *Clinical Practice Guideline, Report of the Guideline Recommendations, Autism/Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Assessment and Intervention for Young Children (Age 0-3 Years)* can be ordered from the following web page:
<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/eip/menu.htm>.

